

**Andrew Jackson to Marie Joseph Paul Yves Roch
Gilbert Du Motier, marquis de Lafayette, January 19,
1831, from Correspondence of Andrew Jackson. Edited
by John Spencer Bassett.**

TO THE MARQUIS DE LAFAYETTE.

Washington, January 19, 1831.

My D'r Genl. , An extract from a letter of yours to General Bernard received at the moment of his departure for Paris has been shewn to me, by which it appears that you are interesting yourself in the satisfactory adjustment of those claims which have so long been a subject of discussion between the United States and France. This evidence of the pure affection you cherish for both countries will excite no surprise on the part of our people. It accords so well with your whole career that its ultimate announcement will be received by them as only the confirmation of anticipations arising from the confidence universally entertained in your unalterable friendship. I should however be wanting in duty and do injustice to my own feelings were I to omit an acknowledgement for this new evidence of your friendly concern. allow me, my dear sir, to thank you and to solicit your perseverance.

The course you have adopted is worthy of one who is regarded the champion of liberty in one Hemisphere, and its founder in another. It must be acknowledged that the relations between the two countries, although generally amicable and liberal, have not been of that unalloyed character which the events of our Revolution were calculated to impart.

It would be equally unwise and unprofitable to review subjects long since disposed of for the purpose of tracing the causes of a result so unnatural, and so inconsistent with our

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mutual interests: The attempt would probably shew that in this case, as in others, that there have been faults on both sides, and we are led by the dictates of true wisdom, as well as the suggestions of christian charity, to look to the future only, for what the past has failed to supply. Those relations ought ever to have presented the characteristics of a close and liberal friendship; and it would be a waste of time to enlarge upon the cogency of the reasons furnished by recent events for indelibly stamping these characteristics upon them at the present moment. no one has it in his power to aid more effectually in this good work than you; and it is a cause of gratitude to the supreme disposer of all good, that for this among other great objects, you have been spared till the present auspicious period in the history of the world.

Excuse me Sir, for inviting you to a vigorous prosecution of the work you have commenced under such favorable auspices; and be assured of my liberal and indefatigable cooperation. The natural disposition of this people towards France is one of warmth and kindness, and it requires only the discharge of what all candid and just men must regard as a duty on his part, to call that disposition into active and vivid cooperation. They expect this from the present King: for the impression that he takes a personal interest in the entire removal of all causes of differences between the two countries, has taken full possession of the public mind. They view it as the natural consequence of the estimate they have formed of his character, and of the principles upon which his throne is founded. Am I wrong in thinking that good acts could tend more to consecrate those principles than one which would bring justice, long delayed but immutable justice, to a people who looking beyond the forms of the respective governments feel the influence and the justness of that Sympathy which belongs to institutions congenial with their own, to awaken.

May I ask the favor of you, and I know not where I could find a more favourable channel, to express to the King the high personal respect I entertain for him, and my sincere and

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ardent wishes for his health, happiness and prosperity, and allow me in conclusion to salute you with the assurance of my respect and unalterable regard.